

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-28, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An electric contact member applying a voltage from a voltage applying means to a charger reciprocally moving in a longitudinal direction of an image carrier, comprising:

a securing portion electrically connected to a side of the voltage applying means;

a reciprocally movable moving portion connected electrically to a side of the charger; and

a buffer portion formed between ~~the~~ said securing portion and ~~the~~ said moving portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said buffer portion has an elasticity.

3. (Currently Amended) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said buffer portion is in a ring shape.

4. (Currently Amended) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said buffer portion has a torsion spring portion.

5. (Currently Amended) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said buffer portion has a coil spring portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~the~~ said securing portion and ~~the~~ said moving portion has a torsion spring portion.

7. (Currently Amended) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~the~~ said securing portion and ~~the~~ said moving portion has a coil spring portion.

8. (Currently Amended) The electric contact member according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7, wherein ~~the~~ said electric contact member is in a linear shape.

9. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge detachably ~~attached~~ attachable to a body of an image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image carrier;

a charger reciprocally moving in a longitudinal direction of ~~the~~ said image carrier; and

an electric contact member ~~for applying~~ configured and positioned to apply a voltage from a voltage applying means to ~~the~~ said charger, ~~the~~ said electric contact member comprising:

a securing portion electrically connected to a side of the voltage applying means;

a reciprocally movable moving portion connected electrically to a side of ~~the~~ said charger; and

a buffer portion formed between ~~the~~ said securing portion and ~~the~~ said moving portion.

10. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ said charger charges a developing agent remaining on ~~the~~ said image carrier.

11. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ said charger is placed on a downstream side of a transfer position at which ~~for transferring~~ a developing agent image is transferred from ~~the~~ said image carrier to ~~the~~ a transfer member and on an upstream side of a charging means for charging ~~the~~ said image carrier, in the moving direction of ~~the~~ said image carrier.

12. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ said charger moves reciprocally ~~as~~ in contact with ~~the~~ said image carrier.

13. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ said charger has a brush member in contact with ~~the~~ said image carrier.

14. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ said buffer portion has an elasticity.

15. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ said buffer portion is in a ring shape.

16. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ said buffer portion has a torsion spring portion.

17. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ said buffer portion has a coil spring portion.

18. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein at least one of ~~the~~ said securing portion and ~~the~~ said moving portion has a torsion spring portion.

19. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein at least one of ~~the~~ said securing portion and ~~the~~ said moving portion has a coil spring portion.

20. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ said process cartridge has a developing means for forming a the developing agent image on ~~the~~ said image carrier, and wherein the developing means can collect a remaining developing agent on ~~the~~ said image carrier.

21. (Currently Amended) The electric contact member according to ~~any of claims 9 to 20~~ claim 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20, wherein ~~the~~ said electric contact member is in a linear shape.

22. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier;
a charger reciprocally moving in a longitudinal direction of ~~the~~ said image carrier; and
an electric contact member ~~for applying~~ configured and positioned to apply a voltage
from a voltage applying means to ~~the~~ said charger, ~~the~~ said electric contact member comprising:
a securing portion electrically connected to a side of the voltage applying means;
a reciprocally movable moving portion connected electrically to a side of ~~the~~ said
charger; and
a buffer portion formed between ~~the~~ said securing portion and ~~the~~ said moving
portion.

23. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein
~~the~~ said charger is placed on a downstream side of a transfer position at which ~~for transferring~~ a
developing agent image is transferred from ~~the~~ said image carrier to ~~the~~ a transfer member and on
an upstream side of a charging means for charging ~~the~~ said image carrier, in the moving direction
of ~~the~~ said image carrier and charges a developing agent remaining on ~~the~~ said image carrier,
wherein ~~the~~ said apparatus has a developing means for forming ~~a~~ the developing agent image on
~~the~~ said image carrier, and wherein the developing means can collect a remaining developing
agent on ~~the~~ said image carrier.

24. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein
~~the~~ said buffer portion has an elasticity.

25. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the said buffer portion is in a ring shape.

26. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the said buffer portion has a torsion spring portion.

27. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the said buffer portion has a coil spring portion.

28. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to ~~any of claims 22 to 27~~ claim 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, or 27, wherein the said electric contact member is in a linear shape.